

PUBLICATIONS.

Diseases of the Nervous System; a Text-book for Students and Practitioners of Medicine. By H. Oppenheim, M. D., professor at the University of Berlin. Translated and edited by Edward E. Mayer, M. D., Pittsburg, Pa., with 343 illustrations. Price, cloth, \$5.00 net, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.

Oppenheim's *Diseases of the Nervous System* is so well and so creditably known to all students of neurology that this review will only serve to acquaint them with the fact that a second American edition has lately been issued. The book, as stated in the preface, is not only a judicious review of neurology, but contains much original information that Professor Oppenheim has published nowhere else. It has only to be thoroughly read to gain warm appreciation, and when once read will frequently be referred to, and rarely in vain, for information on any doubtful neurological point. We believe the value of the book would have been enhanced if the references gave the journal in which the authors published their quoted work. Moreover, the English text shows evidence of an hastiness in translation which sometimes mars the lucidity of the work, e. g. under the heading, *Scleroderma*, we find "the prognosis is an earnest one" instead of "a serious one," and many of the sentences are labored and involved. With these exceptions we have nothing but praise for the work. The method of electrical examination of muscle and nerve, that bugbear to many students, is made clear and lucid. The illustrations, though comparatively few, are accurate and convincing. In the chapter on tumors of the brain the fatal results which have occasionally followed lumbar puncture are referred to, but the terms optic neuritis and choked disc are used indiscriminately, to which we believe our friends the oculists object. The chapters devoted to a consideration of "The Neuroses" are extremely interesting and instructive and there are a few pages devoted to a description of "the Psychopathic Diathesis" under the headings "Conditions of Fear," "Imperative Ideas," etc., which are really helpful. In conclusion we would add that in our opinion this text-book is absolutely necessary to those doing neurological work, for whilst lacking to some extent the readability of Starr's manual and the mental stimulating suggestiveness of Gowers' volumes, in time of need it is more likely to aid us than either.

CHARLES MINOR COOPER.

International Clinics, Volume IV of the thirteenth series, by J. B. Lippincott Company, is now out. This volume is quite up to the standard of previous volumes, both in the matter of writers and papers. John H. Musser writes on the "Treatment of Pneumococcic Infection of the Lung"; Louis Julien discusses the "Subcutaneous Injections of Mercury for Syphilis"; Andrew Duncan writes of "Tropical Dysentery." "The Radical Cure of Prostatic Hypertrophy" is the topic of J. Albaran, and there are numerous other articles of value.

A First Book in Organic Evolution. By D. Kerfoot Shute. Open Court Publishing Co. "This little book has been written chiefly for the use of students in the Medical Department of the Columbian University. It is designed to serve only as an introduction to the study and development theory, and the subject has been presented, it is hoped, in a manner that will render it interesting and easily intelligible to the general reader." The book is divided into seven parts or sections: Organic cells—the visible units of life; Heredity with variation; Unstable environment; Transmutation of living forms; Natural selection; Evolution of man; Classification of animals and plants. Illustrations, many of them splendidly col-

ored, are sufficiently plentiful to accentuate the points made by the author, and are so well done that they add greatly to the value as well as the appearance of the book. "On the theory that men in bygone ages were closely allied to simian creatures in habit as well as in structure; that they led an arboreal life; and that, like the baby-monkeys today, the baby-men of other ages clung to their mothers as they climbed among the trees, Dr. Louis Robinson predicted that a baby's power for grasping would likely be found to equal that of a young monkey which had reached a corresponding period of growth." Dr. Robinson made experiments upon some sixty babies from one hour to four days after birth, and found that in every case this grasping power was



shown to exist. The babies could hang on for from ten seconds to a minute. The illustration (here reproduced through the courtesy of the Open Court Co.) shows one of Dr. Robinson's experiments. The whole posture of these babies is strikingly simian.

Illustrated Dictionary of Medicine, Biology and Allied Sciences, by George M. Gould, A. M., M. D. A reliable medical dictionary is as essential to the studious physician as a good English dictionary is to the student of general literature. Dr. Gould fills the requirement as to reliability, and in addition to that is wide in its scope. Not only are the pronunciation, accentuation, derivation and definition given of terms used in medicine, but there are included those used in the various sciences closely allied to medicine. The fifth edition of this important and valuable work has been issued, with corrections and additions of words which have come into use during the period between 1895, when the fourth edition was issued, and the present. The work is liberally illustrated and contains many tables of exceeding value for reference. As an indication of the great popularity of Gould's dictionaries, the publishers announce that 145,000 copies have been sold. Price in full sheep, with thumb index, \$11; also students' edition, \$2.50; pocket lexicon, \$1.00. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co.